

mm thick as it is advanced over the molten metal bath on which it is formed.

11. A method of making coated flat glass, up to 6 mm thick, that contains alkali metal ions, which method comprises pyrolysing a silane gas of the glass surface above 60° C. in the presence of a gas electron donating compound, whereby oxygen from the glass is incorporated with silicon to form on the glass surface a transparent barrier coating up to 50 nm thick containing silicon and oxygen, and applying a layer sensitive to the diffusion of alkali metal ions from the glass over the coated glass surface, the electron-donating compound being used in a proportion to silane to produce a transparent coating such that when the coating is present on the clear flat glass which has a thickness of up to 6 mm, the coated glass has a light transmission of at least 80%.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the silane gas is monosilane (SiH<sub>4</sub>).

13. A method according to claim 11 wherein the silane is diluted with an inert gas.

14. A method according to claim 11 wherein the electron donating compound is oxygen free.

15. A method according to claim 11 wherein the gaseous electron donating compound is an olefin containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the gaseous electron donating compound is ethylene.

17. A method according to claim 11 wherein the ratio of the gaseous electron donating compound to silane is from 0.5:1 to 15:1 by volume.

18. A method according to claim 11 wherein the glass is up to 2 mm thick.

19. A method according to claim 11 wherein the barrier coating is applied to a ribbon of float glass as it is advanced over the molten metal bath on which it is formed.

20. A method according to claim 11 wherein the ratio of the gaseous electron donating compound to silane is from 0.5:1 to 15:1 by volume, and the transparent barrier coating is applied to a ribbon of float glass up to 2 mm thick as it is advanced over the molten metal bath on which it is formed.

21. A method according to claim 11 which comprises applying a light transmitting layer of a doped metal oxide over the barrier coating.

22. A liquid crystal display device comprising two opposed electroconductive layers with a liquid crystal material between the layers and an alignment layer over each said electroconductive layer in contact with the liquid crystal material, in which at least one of said electroconductive layers is supported on a glass substrate up to 2 mm thick containing alkali metal ions, and, between said electroconductive layer and the glass, there is provided a transparent barrier coating up to 50 nm thick containing silicon and oxygen deposited on the glass surface above 600° C. by pyrolysis of silane in the presence of a gaseous electron donating compound whereby oxygen from the glass is incorporated with silicon to form the transparent barrier coating on the glass surface, the electron-donating compound being used in a proportion to silane to produce a transparent coating such that the coated glass has a light transmission of at least 80%.

23. Electroconductive flat glass comprising a glass substrate containing alkali metal ions, coated with a transparent barrier coating up to 50 nm thick containing silicon and oxygen by pyrolysis of a silane gas on a glass surface above 600° C. in the presence of a gaseous electron donating compound whereby oxygen from the glass is incorporated with silicon to form the transparent barrier coating on the glass surface, and an electroconductive metal oxide layer having a resistivity of less than 500 ohms per square over the barrier layer, the electron-donating compound being used in a proportion to silane to produce a transparent coating such that the coated glass has a light transmission of at least 80%.

24. Infra red reflecting flat glass comprising a glass substrate containing alkali metal ions, coated with a transparent barrier layer up to 50 nm thick containing silicon and oxygen by pyrolysis of a silane gas on a glass surface above 600° C. in the presence of a gaseous electron donating compound whereby oxygen from the glass is incorporated with silicon to form the transparent barrier coating on the glass surface, and a light transmitting infra red reflecting doped metal oxide layer over the barrier coating, the electron-donating compound being used in a proportion to silane to produce a transparent coating such that the coated glass has a light transmission of at least 80%.

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